

To Whom it May Concern:

My name is Sara Goertel, I live in Darien, Connecticut. I fully support HB 5372 An Act Concerning Dyslexia Instruction Offered in Teacher Preparation Programs. My son, Thomas, has dyslexia and is fortunate to have received appropriate intervention from highly trained teachers who received intensive training in research proven methods for remediating dyslexia, like Orton-Gillingham and Preventing Academic Failure (PAF). As a parent, I also sought out Orton-Gillingham training when we learned of Thomas's dyslexia so that I could help Thomas at home and be able to evaluate the quality of the intervention at school. In our family's experience, too few public-school teachers in Connecticut receive intensive training on dyslexia and these evidence-based methods for remediation. Having teachers who understand dyslexia, including the early signs of it, and who know how to incorporate these evidence-based approaches into their classrooms can make all of the difference for a dyslexic student. Ultimately, providing training for teachers while in college or graduate school could save districts money, teachers time, and most importantly prevent students from falling behind and feeling like failures. I believe this bill could ensure minimum standards for knowledge and practice within our institutions of higher education on how teachers are prepared in structured literacy. In the end, this will benefit districts, teachers and students. Thank you for your time today.